

Application No. 10/727,230
Preliminary Amendment

REMARKS

Prior to a first examination, please enter the foregoing amendments and these remarks.

Previously Claims 1-85 were pending.

In this preliminary amendment, claims 28, 32-33, 69-70, and 77 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 29-31 have been amended by this paper. No claim has been added. Accordingly, claims 1-27, 29-31, 34-68, 71-76, and 78-85 remain at issue in the patent application. Of those remaining at issue, claims 1, 23, 34, 54, 66, 71, 75, 78, and 82 are independent claims.

Applicant submits that no new matter has been added by this response.

CLAIM CANCELLATIONS & AMENDMENTS

Claims 28, 32-33, 69-70, and 77 have been canceled without prejudice prior to examination. Claims 29-31 have been amended accordingly. As these amendments have occurred prior to examination, they have not been made for reasons related to patentability.

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CONCLUSION

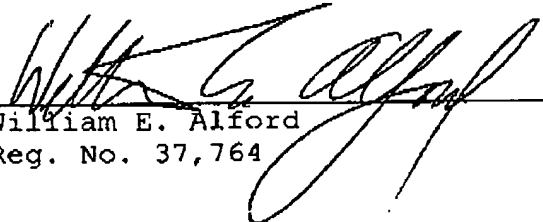
A first examination of the pending claims is respectfully requested. Allowance of the claims at an early date is solicited.

The Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned counsel by telephone at (714) 557-3800 to expedite the prosecution of this case should there be any unresolved matters remaining. To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 02-2666 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: February 13, 2006


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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted via facsimile to the Patent and Trademark Office under 37 CFR §1.8 on: February 13, 2006 to Examiner Edward F. Urban at (571) 273-8300.


Colette Angle

2/13/06

Date